

California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990

Programmatic Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 1999-2000

INTRODUCTION

In June of 1990, the voters of California passed Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, commonly referred to as Proposition 117, or the Mountain Lion Initiative. The Act states, "...There is an urgent need to protect the rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat that supports California's unique and varied wildlife resources."

To assure the preservation of unique habitat, the Act created the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF); required an annual transfer of \$30 million into the Fund until the year 2020; and specified how the monies were to be expended for acquiring, restoring and enhancing habitat necessary to protect wildlife and plant populations, especially deer, mountain lions, rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species, wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitat.

Specifically, the Act requires that \$4.5 million be appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Of this amount, \$1.5 million shall be expended on projects that are located in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range in Monterey County; \$1.0 million shall be expended for acquisitions in, and adjacent to units of the state park system. The remaining \$2.0 million shall be used for 50 percent matching grants to local agencies for projects meeting requirements of the Act, and, for the acquisition of wildlife corridors and urban trails, nature interpretative programs, and other programs designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas.

The Act also required that \$4.0 million be appropriated to the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC); \$10.0 million to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), until July 1, 1995, after which the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) would be the recipient of these funds; \$500,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC); and the balance of the Fund, or \$11.0 million, to the WCB.

EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS

To assure critical habitat is acquired, restored and/or enhanced, Section 2786 of the Act specifies that funds are to be expended on (a) the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands for the protection of deer and mountain lions; (b) the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (c) the acquisition of habitat for Significant Natural Areas, (d) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wetlands; (e) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of aquatic habitat for spawning

and rearing of anadromous salmonids and trout resources; and, (f) the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of riparian habitat.

Further complicating the expenditure requirements, the Act requires that over a 24-month period, to the extent practicable, expenditures should be made to achieve the following: (1) that 1/3 of the total expenditures be made for acquisitions of habitat necessary to protect deer and mountain lions; and the remaining 2/3 of the expenditures shall be made for acquisitions of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (2) that \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands, and \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitat, and (3) that 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Northern California and 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Southern California.

This report provides a complete listing of projects approved for funding by each of the participating entities during FY 99/00.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

While the expenditures can be summarized into the six major habitat categories, i.e., Section 2786 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), many expenditures qualify for more than one program element or habitat as defined in the Act. For example, \$1.0 million could be expended for purposes of acquiring 50 acres to protect deer and mountain lions as defined in Section 2786 (a). That same 50 acres; however, may provide quality habitat for a rare, threatened or fully protected species, as defined in Section 2786 (b).

Stated differently, natural ecosystems are made up of a multitude of plants, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc., interacting with the natural elements as a whole system. Consequently, it is to be expected that some habitat protection efforts will contain more than one defined program element. When acquiring or restoring land, a parcel may be classified for a primary habitat value. Since natural areas are rarely monotypic, a second or even third program element may be present and will appropriately be given credit under that program.

Herein lies one of the major difficulties in reporting how funds are expended. To the extent possible, expenditures were reported for an individual and unique habitat that met one of the definitions of Section 2786. However, in several cases, the same funds were reported as expenditures for multiple types of habitat that met more than one of the definitions of how funds could be expended. Because of the identified multiple wildlife benefits, the reporting of funds by specific categories becomes more complicated.

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND EXPENDITURES

To better understand the accomplishments that were achieved from the expenditure of HCF funds, Table 1 summarizes the type and number of acres protected or restored and the dollars expended to protect, restore or enhance these acres; Table 2 summarizes the expenditures made by each of the participating entities and the purpose for which the expenditures were made, and Table 3 provides a summary of habitat acres protected and restored since 1990.

Table 1

<i>Type of Habitat Protected</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
Total Allocation	\$7,995	\$4,213	\$4,519	\$3,098	\$3,758	\$4,719	\$3,816	\$4,053
Total Acres	13,881 12	3,173 2, 13	2,263 14	1,071,730 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21	833,108 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 18, 20, 21	1,603 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22	1,406 20	2,798 17

- 1/ SCC: \$1,306,761 was expended for development of plans, augmentations, appraisals, pre-project studies and plan review.
- 2/ SCC: Environmental assessment involving 1,600 acres not included in total.
- 3/ SCC: Data collection involving 950 acres not included in total.
- 4/ SCC: Analysis involving 2 acres not included in total.
- 5/ SCC: Technical assistance involving 150 acres not included in total.
- 6/ SCC: Design involving 1,000 acres not included in total.
- 7/ SCC: Scope of Work involving 60 acres not included in total.
- 8/ SCC: Analysis involving 155 acres not included in total.
- 9/ SCC: Appraisal involving 200 acres not included in total.
- 10/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 981,922 acres not included in total.
- 11/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 891,443 acres not included in total.
- 12/ SCC: Plan involving 800 acres not included in total.
- 13/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 56,960 acres not included in total.
- 14/ SCC: Plan involving 56,800 acres not included in total.
- 15/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 9,330 acres not included in total.
- 16/ SCC: Plan 750 sq. mi. not included in total.
- 17/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 6,800 acres not included in total.
- 18/ SCC: Plan 700 sq. mi. not included in total.
- 19/ SCC: Plans or studies involving 1,200 ac not included in total.
- 20/ DPR: Acres not reported.
- 21/ CTC: Plans or studies involving 6,800 ac not included in total.
- 22/ WCB: Plans or studies acreage not reported.

Table 2

<i>Habitat Protection by Agency 1999-2000</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
Agency	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$7,085	\$2,675	\$4,085	\$1,548	\$2,162	\$3,786	\$3,105	\$3,660
California State Coastal Commission	100	490	209	1,504	991	605	0	130
Department of Parks and Recreation	810	1048	226	18	578	300	711	263
California Tahoe Conservancy	0	0	0	27	27	27	0	0
Total Allocation	\$7,995	\$4,213	\$4,519	\$3,098	\$3,758	\$4,719	\$3,816	\$4,053
<i>Acres Protected</i>								
Wildlife Conservation Board	11,723	1,946	1,524	1,652	604	1,325	1,168	2,535
California State Coastal Commission	0	640	600	1,070,071	832,010	10	0	30
Department of Parks and Recreation	2,158	587	139	5	493	266	238	233
California Tahoe Conservancy	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0
Total Acres	13,881 12	3,173 2, 13	2,263 14	1,071,730 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21	833,108 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 18, 20, 21	1,603 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22	1,406 20	2,798 17

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California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990
Report for Fiscal Year 1999-2000

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22/ WCB: Plans or studies acreage not reported.

Table 3

<i>Type of Habitat Protected 1990 to 2000</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
Total Allocation	\$50,805	\$91,939	\$32,427	\$49,928	\$27,218	\$46,473	\$81,179	\$50,581
Acres Protected	64,418	59,209	28,732	1,179,449	850,178	73,056	43,002	32,845

As previously mentioned, the Act requires that 50 percent of the funds be expended in Northern California and 50 percent in Southern California, as defined. For FY 99/00, the data reported reflects a total of \$19.3 million expended from the Habitat Conservation Fund. Of this amount, \$11.3 million was expended in Northern California and \$8 million was expended in Southern California.

The 99/00 Budget appropriated \$21 million to the WCB. Of this amount, Budget Bill language required that \$642,000 be made available to the Department of Fish and Game. This report only identifies the amount of monies transferred to the Department of Fish and Game; it does not provide an accounting on how these funds were expended with respect to the requirements of the Act.

The Act also states that, "to the extent practicable, ... all agencies expending funds should use the services of the California Conservation Corps and local community conservation corps." Of the 76 projects reported, only 4 used the services of the California Conservation Corps or local community conservation corps. This low participation rate could be attributed to the nature of the projects reported. Many projects were planning/development/assessment projects to determine the viability of future restoration or enhancement efforts as opposed to on-the-ground restoration or enhancement projects. As

such, the services provided by the California Conservation Corps or local assistance groups may not be appropriate.

Section 2794 requires that any state or local agency that manages lands acquired with funds appropriated from the HCF shall prepare, with full public participation, a management plan for lands acquired. Based upon the reported information, 25 of the 76 projects indicated that a management plan had been prepared. It should be noted, that many reported projects reflect an expansion of an existing public area and/or are included in a project area plan that contains an operational and management element.

To further understand how the funds were expended by each of the participating entities, the following section provides a summary of projects funded in FY 99/00.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Funds Appropriated	\$21,000,000
Funds Allocated	\$13,083,424
Pass-through to DFG	\$642,000

Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Allensworth ER, Expansion 7-14	Tulare	\$6,000	176
Allensworth ER, Expansion 15-20	Tulare	6,000	263
Andrews Creek ER	Tuolumne	96,000	253
Bass Hill WLA, Expansion 6	Lassen	300,000	278
Battle Creek WLA, Expansion 3	Tehama	530,000	116
Blue Ridge-Berryessa WLA	Napa/Yolo	1,243,000	8,079
Boden Canyon ER, Expansion 1-2	San Diego	2,410,000	660
Cache Creek, WLA	Lake/Colusa	300,000	20
Coal Canyon Wildlife Corridor	Orange	1,000,000	650
Gray Lodge WLA, Mineral Rights donation	Butte	1,000	0
Kern Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan	Kern	909,500	1,515
Kinsman Flat WLA, Expansion 5	Fresno	62,000	19
Lakeside Linkages, Expansion 3	San Diego	85,000	9
Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 4-14	Kern	40,000	82
Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3 (Kern County Valley Floor HCP)	Kern	2,500	3
Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 15-19	Kern	20,000	35
Lusardi Creek Habitat Linkages, Expansion 1	San Diego	990,000	95
Rodman Slough WLA	Lake	395,000	230
San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Expansion 8	Fresno	1,000,000	358
San Jacinto WLA, Expansion 10	Riverside	1,600,000	305
Wilderness Ranch WLA	Tulare	338,000	725
WCB Total Acquisition		\$11,334,000	13,871

Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990
Report for Fiscal Year 1999-2000

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Mountain Meadows Reservoir, Upland Restoration	Lassen	\$10,000	100
RHR, Union School Slough Watershed	Yolo	33,600	13
RHR, Fall River (Whipple Ranch)	Shasta	50,000	6
RHR, Pit River	Lassen	192,500	200
RHR, Sacramento River WLA (Jacinto and Princeton)	Colusa/Glenn	310,650	71
RHR, Amargosa & Mojave Rivers	Inyo/San Bernardino	250,000	250
Riparian and Stream Habitat Restoration, DFG	Various	316,037	65
Riparian and Stream Habitat Restoration, DFG	Various	316,037	65
Riparian and Stream Habitat Restoration, Laguna Santa Rosa	Sonoma	34,450	4
Sacramento River Riparian Vegetation GIS Mapping	Butte/ Colusa/ Glenn/ Shasta/ Tehama	20,000	
Wetland Habitat Restoration (Lakeview Farms)	Placer	190,150	460
Wetland Habitat Restoration (Brood Water & Wetland Enhancement Phase II)	Glenn	26,000	104
WCB Total Development		\$1,749,424	1,338

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Funds Appropriated: \$4,000,000
Funds Allocated: \$1,642,744

Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Edison Acquisition – Mandalay	Ventura	\$10,000	30
Ormond Beach	Ventura	3,983	600
SCC TOTAL ACQUISITIONS		\$13,983	630

Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Study	Mendocino	\$20,000	0
Arana Gulch	San Mateo	6,000	2,112
Azevedo Marshes	Monterey	2,000	18
Bel Marin Keys V	Marin	25,000	950
Bel Marin Keys V	Marin	500	1,600
Big Oak Restoration	Contra Costa	231,000	2,500
Carmel River Lagoon	Monterey	1,300	150
Cascade Ranch	San Mateo	8,800	2
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve	San Luis Obispo	4,000	443
Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Project	Santa Barbara	100,000	38
Hamilton Wetlands	Marin	322,049	1,000
Introduced Spartina Eradication Project Phase I/Stage I	San Francisco	49,100	40,000
Introduced Spartina Eradication Project Phase I/Stage I	San Francisco	67,167	40,000
Introduced Spartina Eradication Project Phase I/Stage I	San Francisco	52,683	40,000
Irish Hills Watersheds Conservation Plan	San Luis Obispo	85,000	50,000

California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990
Report for Fiscal Year 1999-2000

Lake Merritt Marsh	Alameda	90,000	1
Lake Merritt Salinity Data Assessment	Alameda	1,735	155
Lower Jacoby Creek Wetlands Enhancement	Humboldt	5,500	60
Lower Pajaro River Watershed Enhancement Plan	Santa Cruz	100,000	300
Martinez Management Plan	San Luis Obispo	1,500	143
Pajaro River Watershed	Santa Cruz	8,000	832,000
Petaluma Marsh Expansion	Marin	70,159	160
San Lorenzo Watershed	Monterey	12,000	234,838
San Pedro Creek Wetlands Enhancement	San Mateo	200,000	10
Santa Maria River Estuary	San Luis Obispo	5,000	600
Santa Clara River/Calleguas Watershed	Ventura	20,000	6,000
Santa Margarita Watershed Enhancement Plan	Riverside	20,500	0
Santa Maria River Estuary Plan (Scope of Work)	San Luis Obispo	2,000	600
South Bay Restoration Cost Study	San Francisco	1,395	20,000
Tennessee Hollow Restoration	San Francisco	9,573	30
Tottino property appraisal	Monterey	6,800	200
Watsonville Slough System Watershed Plan	Santa Cruz	100,000	800
SCC TOTAL DEVELOPMENT		\$1,628,761	1,274,710

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Funds Appropriated: \$4,500,000

Fund Allocated: \$4,321,240

Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
BLM Acquisition	San Luis Obispo	\$175,000	1,571
Calabasas Peak-Tarweed	Los Angeles	300,000	80
Clayton Ranch	Alameda	200,000	331
Empire Mine SHP/Wolf Creek - Phase 1	Nevada	992	6
Los Gatos Creek Trail	Santa Clara	100,000	n/a
Lusardi Creek Preserve	San Diego	100,000	25
MacKerricher State Park/Ten Mile Dunes - Smith Parcel	Mendocino	40,400	55
Mills Creek Open Space	Santa Clara	150,000	165
Nicholas Canyon	Los Angeles	356,848	100
Point Lobos State Reserve/Point Lobos Ranch	Monterey	1,500,000	1,312
Salinas River State Beach/Sandholdt Property	Monterey	88,000	23
Soquel Creek Headwaters	Santa Clara	274,000	493
Van Damme State Park/Spring Ranch (Phase 4 Option)	Mendocino	380,000	40
DPR TOTAL ACQUISITIONS		\$3,665,240	4,201

Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres¹</u>
Santa Rosa Creek	Sonoma	\$250,000	
Humbbug-Willow Creek Trail	Sacramento	157,000	
Kahler Russel Park Trail	Los Angeles	175,000	
Minor's Ridge Trail	San Diego	20,000	

¹ Acres not reported for these five projects.

California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990
Report for Fiscal Year 1999-2000

Malibu Creek

Los Angeles

\$54,000

DPR DEVELOPMENT TOTAL

\$656,000

CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Funds Appropriated: \$500,000
Funds Expended: \$98,048

Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Wetland Habitat Improvement Project Design and Development Activities	Placer	\$77,048	NA
Snow Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Project	Placer	21,000	4
CTC TOTALS		\$98,048	4

CONCLUSIONS

According to the information and data provided to the WCB, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 is protecting critical habitat in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Act.

With \$13,083,424 allocated from the Habitat Conservation Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Board funded many diverse projects in FY 99/00. Many of the projects funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board focused on the restoration or enhancement of critical wetland and riparian habitat with grants made through the Inland Wetland Conservation Program and the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program. Also, existing ecological reserves and wildlife areas were expanded through a variety of means, including land donations/exchanges, conservation easements and fee acquisitions. Other projects In FY 99/00, the Wildlife Conservation Board protected, restored and enhanced thousands of acres of critical habitat for a host of fish, wildlife and plant species.

In total, \$98,048 from the Habitat Conservation Fund has been authorized by the California Tahoe Conservancy for the development, design, and implementation of acquisition, restoration and habitat improvement projects to protect diverse and critical wetland and riparian habitat. The Snow Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Project involves a grant to Placer County for wildlife and fisheries habitat enhancement activities on up to 3.5 acres of wetland habitat. Wildlife habitat improvement activities involved in all of the projects include restoration and enhancement of habitat for a diverse variety of species including endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Potential restoration sites involved in this effort include: Burton Creek, Blackwood Creek, Lake Forest/Polaris Creek and Cove East/Barton Meadow.

The DPR allocated \$4,321,240 from the Habitat Conservation Fund. The State Parks' habitat purchase program continued phased acquisition efforts at Point Lobos State Reserve, and Van Damme State Park and funded new purchases at Empire Mine State

Historic Park, MacKerricher State Park and Salinas River State Beach. Included in the amount allocated by DPR are thirteen local assistance projects totaling \$2,311,848.

The California State Coastal Conservancy allocated a total of \$1,642,744 from the Habitat Conservation Fund to fund many varied projects. Among those projects were Edison Acquisition – Mandalay and Ormond Beach. The Coastal Conservancy also continued work on the San Lorenzo Watershed, Pajaro Rive Watershed Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Arana Gulch Watershed. The Introduced Spartina Eradication Project Phase I/Stage I will develop a regionally coordinated program with the objective to prevent the spread of alien cordgrass throughout the Bay, including environmental compliance, mapping, planning, monitoring, research, public outreach, etc.

As previously mentioned, a total of \$19.3 million was expended from the HCF to acquire, restore and/or enhance 1,089,485 acres of critical habitat. In addition, it appears that urban trails and/or efforts designed to join or link critical habitat areas remains a high priority effort for many agencies receiving monies from the HCF as a greater emphasis continues to be made on providing public access and urban trails designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. This is especially encouraging, as more citizens of California will have access to and benefit from our natural resources.

Collectively, the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 are protecting, restoring and enhancing critical wildlife habitat and fisheries in California. As the population of California continues to grow, it is reassuring to know that the provisions of this Act are preserving and protecting the rapidly disappearing unique and varied wildlife resources that the citizens of California have grown to cherish.